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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH MPEP 609

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicant(s) submit herewith documents which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and with respect to which they believe there may be a duty to disclose the existence and contents thereof. These documents are listed on Form PTO-1449 attached hereto.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR 1.97(g)), nor as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission in any manner.

Copies of all listed documents are:

- ☒ attached hereto.
- ☐ attached hereto unless provided during the prosecution of the parent application, U.S. Serial No. _____ filed _____
- ☐ now allowed
- ☐ and issued as U.S. Patent No. _____ on _____.

Related Applications:

- ☒ In addition to the documents cited in the specification, applicants wish to point out copending U.S. application Serial No. 09/746,751 filed on December 21, 2000.
- ☐ This copending application relates to _____
- ☐ The inventive entity is the same.

The owner of the above applications is the same.

Initialing of each document after its consideration by the Examiner is now respectfully requested in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: November 19, 2001

JCP/gm